any representation from the Weavers Cooperative Societies and other Organisations seeking more concessions/relaxations for handloom weaver;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(c) the details of the relaxations/concessions being provided to the handloom weavers at present?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b). Yes Sir, the Union Govt. keeps on receiving representations from various cooperative societies and other Organisations seeking more concessions/ relaxations for handloom weavers pertaining to developmental schemes implemented by the Govt. and issues of general interest. All the representations are considered and acted upon, within the permissible frame work of approved guidelines. Necessary modifications/ alterations/additions is also carried out on the basis of representation as per the merit of the issue.

(c) Details of the relaxations/concessions being provided to the handloom weavers at present inter-alia include the following :-

(i) Assistance under Janata Cloth Scheme.

(ii) Assistance under Mill Gate Price Scheme.

(iii) Cash Credit facilities through cooperative Banks and Commercial Banks under NABARD refinance.

(iv) Market Development Assistance.

(v) Assistance for participation in National Handloom Expos and Mini Handloom Expos.

(vi) Fiscal concession to handloom sector.

(vii) Assistance through various weavers service centres.

(viii) Assistance under various other ongoing schemes such as Handloom Development Centres and Quality Dyeing Units, Project Package Scheme, IHVD Scheme, Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, Thrift Fund Scheme, Group Insurance Scheme, Health Package Scheme, Margin Money for Destitute Weavers, etc.

Setting up of Industries in Backward and Hilly Areas

*127. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have chalked out any plan for setting up of industries for the development of backward and hilly areas of the country under its Common Minimum Programme;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted so as to translate the plan into action; and

(c) the areas in which industries are likely to be set up and the kind of industries to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). Union of India plays a supportive and pro-active role in the implementation of area-specific policy initiatives of State Governments for development of industry. In this direction, at present, Centrally sponsored schemes like the Transport Subsidy Scheme, the Growth Centre Scheme and the Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme are being implemented by the Ministry of Industry for the accelerated inudstrial development particularly of the hilly, backward and inaccessible regions of the country. The report of the review group set up by Ministry of Finance for considering Taluka/District as an indicator for sanctioning tax holiday under Section 80 IA is under consideration of the Government.

[English]

Import of Blank Coins

*128. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a shortage of coins in the country;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to increase their availability;

(c) whether the Government also propose to import blank coins; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) There is temporary shortage of coins as the currency notes of Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 have been fully coinised raising the demand for coins.

(b) The Government is executing the Mint's modernisation project at India Government Mints, Calcutta, Hyderabad and Mumbai. The new plants and machinery are expected to be commissioned by June, 1997. Thereafter the capacity of the Mints will substantially go up to meet the requirement of coins.

(c) and (d). With a view to increasing production of coins, Government procures coin blanks both from indigenous and foreign sources. Action for procurement of 4000 MT stainless steel coin blanks and 3000 MT cupro-nickel coin blanks has been initiated.

World Bank Loan for Power Sector

*129. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of power projects in India for which Asian Development Bank has sanctioned loan recently;

(b) the number of power projects which are proposed to be set up in U.P.;

(c) the rate of interest to be charged by ADB thereon; and

(d) the mode of payment adopted by the Government for repayment of loan?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Asian Development Bank (ADB) has sanctioned one loan for the power sector during 1996-97 to the Power Grid Corporation for the Power Transmission (Sector) Project.

(b) No new projects are proposed to be set up in Uttar Pradesh at this stage with ADB assistance. The ADB assisted Unchahar Project is presently under implementation by NTPC.

(c) and (d). Half-yearly variable interest rates ranging from 5% to 8% per annum are charged by ADB depending upon their market borrowings. Repayments are made out of budgetary provisions of financial year.

Production of Coffee

*132. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of coffee produced in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether there is great demand of Indian coffee in the domestic and international markets; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to increase the production and export of coffee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) State-wise production of coffee during the last three years in the country is as follows :-

State	1993-94 Production	1994-95 Production	1995-96 Production
Karnataka	1,44,860	1,23,050	1,58,900
Kerala	46,240	39,000	45,000
Tamil Nadu	15,840	15,870	17,500
Others	1,060	2,180	1,600
All India	2,08,000	1,80,100	2,23,000

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) To increase production of coffee, the Coffee Board operates several plan schemes for intensive cultivation, replanting and quality improvement. Support is provided by way of research, extension, arrangement of credit and finance and other backup, like supply of seed coffee for planting.

Among the steps taken to boost export of coffee are:

(i) regular participation in important coffee fairs abroad;

(ii) media publicity compaign to popularise Indian Coffee;

(iii) regular market survey and deputation of business negotiations/delegations to foreign markets; and

(iv) inviting foreign market teams to the country to popularise Indian coffee

IFCI Investment in India

*135. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the aggregate investment of Industrial Finance Corporation of India has declined during the financial year ended March, 1996;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the same during 1996-97.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir. During 1995-96, financial assistance disbursed by Industrial Finance Corporation of India Limited (IFCI) amounted to Rs. 4563.26 crores registering a growth of 60.8% over the disbursements of Rs. 2838.73 crores during 1994-95. The disbursements in 1995-96 included investments in shares/debentures to the extent of Rs. 461.38 crores which was higher by 42.3% over the disbursements of Rs. 324.19 crore made during the year 1994-95.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) IFCI has reported that its performance in terms of sanctions and disbursements, including those by way of investments in shares/debentures, is largely dependent on flow of acceptable proposals which in turn is dependent on the general investment climate in the country and more particularly the condition of the capital market as well as nominal and real interest rates in the economy.

Public Sector Coal Companies

*137. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the budgetary support to the public sector coal companies has come down since 1990;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the public sector coal companies are facing acute financial crisis; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to help public sector coal companies to tide over the financial crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.